

War C/S/C Part 6

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT

Date 6/26/91 HRP 89-2 Washington, D. C.

* Subject to DOD concurrence

29 September 1945

RECORDED

TO: Branch and Office Chiefs Concerned

SUBJECT: Activation of Strategic Services Unit, War Department

1. Effective 1 October 1945, the Secretary of War has designated General MacGruder as his and the War Department's representative to take over direction of those OSS functions previously given to the War Department by President Truman's Executive Order, dated 20 September 1943. These functions together will include all personnel and records pertaining to them will be maintained in a separate entity designated as the "Strategic Services Unit, War Department".

2. The Director of the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, will be directly responsible to the Secretary of War, General MacGruder, or his designee. It is contemplated that most of the key personnel of OSS will remain assigned in an advisory capacity or in their former positions to General MacGruder during this transition period. All Strategic Services Officers and Chiefs of Mission and all OSS personnel under their command except personnel of NSA and presentational branches in countries other than Austria and Germany will be part of the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, and will be responsible to General MacGruder.

3. All permanent visual procurement personnel outside of Austria and Germany are transferred by the Executive Order to the "United States Research and Intelligence Service", State Department. This service, established by the President to take over the OSS service, of these two OSS branches, is to be headed by Col. Edward G. Rabeck, formerly head of Special Branch, C-2. Personnel concerned will receive instructions from State, regarding their future status and activities. The route to this country should continue to be determined upon arrival.

4. It should be noted that the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, is an independent agency reporting directly to the War Department and not an independent agency reporting directly to the Secretary of War. Under the authority granted by the Secretary of War, Major General MacGruder, will be assisted by

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to the authority of and policies determined by the Assistant Secretary of War and his designees, will continue liquidating "those OSS activities and personnel so transferred to the War Department which are no longer necessary or desirable, and preserve as a unit such of these functions and facilities as are valuable for permanent peacetime purposes, or which may be required by Theater Commanders or occupational authorities to assist in the discharge of their responsibilities".

5. Strategic Services Officers and Chiefs of Mission have been informed of the above and advised that relationships with the Theater Commander and the Army in the field will continue as heretofore. They were instructed that material or records (including financial reports) beyond those which were customarily furnished to Theater Commanders and the Army in the past are to be made available to them only with General Magruder's advance permission. A similar policy is to be followed in continental United States.

6. General Magruder in due course will issue detailed instructions regarding the budget, fiscal and other matters.



Charles S. Cheston
Assistant Director